

Appl. No. 10/605,996
Amdt. Dated Jan. 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of Oct. 26, 2005

REMARKS

At first, the applicant acknowledges the examiner's action mailed on 10/26/2005 and appreciates the examiner's indication of allowabilities of claims 1-16.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 5 and 6 are objected to because of the informalities set forth in this Office Action.

"Of" is inserted after "sides" in line 9 of claim 1 to over the informalities.

The applicants have adjusted the claims 5 and 6 to overcome the informalities of words bridging adjacent lines.

Claim Rejections-35 USC § 112

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In regard to claim 1, a storage cassette for accommodating substrates comprises a box-shaped case with a space for retaining substrates and defining an entrance for inserting the substrates into the space; and a stopping mechanism comprising a first locating mechanism, a second locating mechanism, and a stopper engaged therebetween, wherein the first and second locating mechanisms are **respectively** located at opposite sides of the entrance of the case, and each locating mechanism defines a first locating means, a second locating means closer to a corresponding side of **the opposite sides of the entrance** of the case than the first locating means, and a connecting means interconnecting the first locating means and the

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second locating mean; wherein in a first position, the stopper is engaged in the first locating means whereby substrates accommodated in the cassette cannot be displaced; and in a second position, the stopper is engaged in the second locating means whereby the substrates can be freely removed from the space.

The applicants have amended the claim 1 to have the feature of "closer to a corresponding side of the opposite sides of the entrance of the case". Thus, the "sides" refers to the sides of the entrance of the case.

Therefore, the claim 1 is definite to remove the rejection under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph.

On the other hand, the applicants have changed "the stoppers" to "the stopper" as considered by the examiner to remove the insufficiency of antecedent basis.

In view of the above claim amendments and remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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By 

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